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comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between
said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via said at
least one description subsystem.-

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded
the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to
reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the
following remarks.

Claims 1-32 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding
Office Action. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 20 and 31 have been rewritten, while Claims 2 and
32 have been cancelled without prejudice. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the
changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.

The Office commented on the appearance of trademarks in the application. By
this Amendment, the specification has been amended to render trade names in what is
understood to be a more acceptable format for the Office.

Claims 1, 20-22 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Shah et
al. (hereafter "Shah"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are
hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 32 has been cancelled herein without prejudice.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a self-describing peripheral device for being integrated with a computer operating system, with at least one hardware component resident in the device and at least one description subsystem resident in the device and associated with the at least one hardware component. Additionally, the at least one description subsystem comprises interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between the device and a computer operating system. Claim 20 recites similar features in a method of integrating a self-describing peripheral device with a computer operating system. It is respectfully submitted that the applied art is very far afield from that which is contemplated in accordance with Claims 1 and 20.

Simply, Shah has nothing to do with self-describing peripheral devices that have resident description subsystems, let alone with those that have interface logic. The specific passages cited by the Office, in Claim 1 of Shah, actually appear to teach away from the invention as recited by instant Claims 1 and 20. Particularly, Shah appears to contemplate a device driver resident on an I/O board as well as a peripheral device table resident on a data processing system. However, there is broadly contemplated in accordance with at least one presently preferred embodiment of the present invention at least one description subsystem resident on a self-describing peripheral device, not on any I/O board associated with a data processing system. The beauty of the very wide range of self-describing peripheral devices thereby contemplated is in their portability to different operating systems in different physical locales. The instant specification is replete with examples such self-describing devices that themselves contain the components needed to

communicate to an operating system, *inter alia*, important descriptive information such as, e.g., a version number and information on how to obtain a newer version of a device driver.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 20 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from Claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 21 and 22 are also allowable.

Claims 2-19 and 23-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Shah and Chiles et al. (hereafter "Chiles"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been cancelled herein without prejudice.

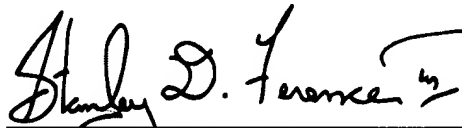
It is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-19, and 23-30 are allowable by virtue of dependence from Claims 1 and 20. The present 103 rejection cannot thus detract from the apparent allowability of Claims 4-19 and 23-30 in their dependence from Claims 1 and 20.

Claim 31 recites a program storage device for performing the method steps of amended Claim 20. Accordingly, the remarks presented above in connection with the 102 rejection of Claim 20 are relevant here, in that the Shah reference cannot be construed as teaching or suggesting the features of Claim 31. With Shah effectively destroyed as a valid reference against Claim 31, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Chiles alone are not sufficient to anticipate or render obvious Claim 31.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 31 is also allowable.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1 and 3-31, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stanley D. Ference III" with a stylized flourish at the end.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

The specification is amended as follows:

The paragraph at p. 2, lines 1-8 is replaced with the following amended paragraph:

-- In the realm of software, as well, certain arrangements for updating are known. Examples include Intuit's [*Turbo Tax*] "TURBO TAX", where the software periodically queries the user whether to check the Intuit web page for updated versions of the software and/or newer versions of the tax forms. With Norton's [*AntiVirus*] "ANTIVIRUS", the software periodically checks whether updated virus signature files are available on the company web site. With the IBM [*Global Network Dialer*] "GLOBAL NETWORK DIALER", when there is a connection to the internet, the software determines whether a newer version of the software and/or a newer version of the phone number list is available and asks the user whether to update.--

In the Claims:

Claims 2 and 32, currently on file, are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 20 and 31 are rewritten as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A self-describing peripheral device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

at least one hardware component resident in said device; and

at least one description subsystem resident in said device and associated with said
at least one hardware component;

said at least one description subsystem being adapted to facilitate integration of
said device with a computer operating system;

said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting
commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating
system.--

-- 3. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, further comprising:

non-volatile memory;

said interface logic being adapted to control said non-volatile memory.--

-- 4. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said interface
logic is adapted to facilitate identification of said device.--

-- 5. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, further comprising:

a device driver;

said interface logic being adapted to facilitate the provision of information to a
computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.--

-- 6. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to assist a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.--

-- 7. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to provide a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.--

-- 9. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of device driver information stored on said device.--

-- 10. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.--

-- 11. **(Amended)** The device according to Claim [2] 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to prompt usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.--

-- 12. (Amended) The device according to Claim [2] 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.--

-- 20. (Amended) A method of integrating a self-describing peripheral device with a computer operating system, said method comprising:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via [at least one component associated with said device] said at least one description subsystem.-

-- 31. (**Amended**) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via [at least one component associated with said device] said at least one description subsystem.

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